

By: Zaffirini

S.B. No. 2037

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a request for 9-1-1 services by text message.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Chapter 771A, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Section 771A.002 to read as follows:

Sec. 771A.002. ACCESS TO 9-1-1 SERVICE BY TEXT MESSAGE. (a) In this section, "public safety answering point" has the meaning assigned by Section 771.001.

(b) To the extent practicable and within available resources, a public safety answering point shall receive emergency 9-1-1 communications by calls and text messages.

(c) In this chapter and Chapters 771 and 772, any reference to a call for emergency services received by a public safety answering point that has implemented text messaging means a call or text message.

(d) In this chapter and Chapters 771 and 772, a provision referring to a telephone number associated with a call or text message for emergency services applies only to a call or text message that has a telephone number associated with the device from which the call or text message originated. Any other relevant and available contact information of a person using a device not associated with a telephone number to request the emergency services must be provided to the public safety answering point.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.